

Application No. 09/767,542

Interview Summary

An Interview between Examiner Semunegus and the undersigned on July 29, 2002, is hereby acknowledged. During the Interview, the claims rejected by the Examiner were discussed. It was agreed that this Amendment would be submitted.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected Claims 17, 18, 21, and 38-43 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Schneider et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,225,624. The Examiner contended that Schneider et al. discloses a munition that includes a projectile with a guide portion. The Examiner identified reference number 18 as being the guide portion.

Independent claims 1 and 38 have been amended to more clearly emphasize the aspects of the present invention. In particular, these claims as amended indicate that the guide portion enhances the ability to accurately propel the projectile. These amendments are not believed to narrow the scope of the claims.

Reference number 18 is the stub case, which does not extend from the projectile. Schneider et al. does not disclose a munition having a guide portion that extends into the substantially enclosed region for a length that is at least one-half a length of the substantially enclosed region along the central axis.

The differences between the Schneider et al. munition and the claimed munition is because of the different purposes of these devices. Schneider et al. attempts to enhance the performance of the plasma injector by placing an aft propellant chamber 38 around the plasma injector. The claimed design provides desired propellant ignition rates without the need for an aft propellant chamber.

In view of the preceding, claims 17, 18, 21 and 38-43 are not anticipated by Schneider et al. Additionally, because of the differences discussed above, these claims are not obvious when viewed in light of Schneider et al.

In view of the amendments to the claims and the remarks herein, Applicants believe that the Application is now in a condition for allowance, and reconsideration and favorable action are respectfully requested. If the Examiner feels that contacting Applicants' attorney via telephone

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would advance the prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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ATTACHMENT
REDLINED AMENDMENTClaims As Amended

Please substitute the following amended claims for the respectively referenced claims



currently on record:

17. (Amended) A munition comprising:
- a stub case;
 - a casing attached to the stub case, wherein the stub case and the casing are oriented along a central axis;
 - a projectile attached to the casing opposite the stub case, wherein the stub case, casing and the projectile define a substantially enclosed region, wherein the projectile has a guide portion that extends into the substantially enclosed region for a length that is at least one-half a length of the substantially enclosed region along the central axis , wherein the guide portion enhances the ability to accurately propel the projectile;
 - a propellant substantially filling the substantially enclosed region; and
 - a plasma injector mounted substantially within the stub case in communication with the propellant, wherein the plasma injector has an anode and a cathode.
38. (Amended) A method of launching a munition, the method comprising:
- providing a munition having a casing and a stub case which define a substantially enclosed region that has an opening opposite the stub case;

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inserting a projectile into the substantially enclosed region through the opening so that a guide portion of the projectile extends more than 50 percent of a distance from the opening to the stub case, wherein the guide portion enhances the ability to accurately propel the projectile;

mounting a plasma injector igniter at least partially in the stub case, wherein the plasma injector igniter has an anode and a cathode;

passing current from the anode to the cathode to generate plasma; and

igniting the propellant with the plasma.